

RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Wyoming Board of Agriculture
May 2, 2007
Conference Call

Members Present: Jack Corson, President
Gene Hardy, Vice President
Jim Mickelson
Juan Reyes
Joe Thomas
John Etchepare, Director, WY Dept. of Agriculture

Members Absent: Patrick Zimmerer
Dalin Winters
Emily Horton
David Largent
David Graham
Frank Galey, Dean, UW College of Agriculture
Ryan Lance, Governor Freudenthal's Office

WDA Staff Present: Muff Parker, Recording Secretary
Jason Fearneyhough, Deputy Director

Issues

Jack Corson asked what Jim and Joe had come up with after talking with additional permittees and landowners regarding the wolf boundary. Both men agreed that about 85% of the folks in their areas wanted the blue line. Jack will write a letter to the Governor with the Board of Agriculture's support for the blue boundary line.

Mitch King from USFWS will be spending the next three days with Joe Thomas in order to view the wolf situation firsthand. Joe also attended the wolf meeting and didn't feel they really listened to what was being said to the USFWS. Originally the feds wanted thirty breeding pairs and they now have eighty-nine. He indicated funding is a real problem in both Idaho and Montana and when the wolf is de-listed it will worsen. Gene asked if Albert Sommers still wanted to be within the trophy area and Jim indicted, yes.

Jack asked if John had an update from the Joint Ag Committee meeting. John said they did discuss the errors in two of the bills that passed. One was regarding the fees allowed by the livestock board and the other was regarding the language in the nursery stock bill. They felt both needed to be corrected and they would address them with legislation next session.

The subject of in-stream flow did arise but they were not willing to deal with it this year. Senator Case may bring it up as an initiative and let the public decide.

Lynn Boomgaarden asked the committee to address the need for funding in order to manage state lands. She said there were three things. One would be to do nothing. The second thing would be allowed to hold 1% of the funds generated by those lands. The last one would be through appropriation by the legislature.

Jim Magagna brought forth an idea of establishing a fund to be able to make direct payment to farmers and ranchers for drought relief. The program would be administered by the Department of Agriculture and the funds would be distributed by the Wyoming Business Council. This is in the initial thought stage and there was no action taken by the committee.

Bryce would like to see an amendment to the eminent domain bill to correct one paragraph within the bill

Bobbie Frank would like some direction from the committee as to how to handle the TMDL's that will probably be implemented if those streams that have been impaired are not cleaned up by the thirteen-year deadline. Some of the streams in the state will be facing that issue soon.

Jack wanted John to report on the Governor's Brucellosis Coordination Team meeting held April 26. John said the article in the Roundup was very accurate. The testing area has been reduced to about one and half counties. A map is attached, but it does include Lincoln, Sublette, and all of Teton Counties. Those outside the area that have a management plan (depending on the risk) will not have to test. Some ranchers have vaccinated with RB 51 when their cattle are pregnant are now experiencing some problems. They have experienced aborted calves, etc. Jim Mickelson said there is no test to check for the titer from RB 51. he thinks they may have to quarantine the herd in order to clean it up.

Jim Mickelson and Joe Thomas were not able to participate in the livestock board call, but John has visited with Jim Schwartz and he said the board hopes to have the state vet hired by July. One of the changes is that the vet will have to reside in Cheyenne. John said it is still an as-will position answering to the board. The brucellosis rules will be finalized soon. John said he believes Dr. Cook has applied for that position.

Jason Fearneyhough said the Green Mountain draft plan is out for public comment and should have the final plan in place for the 2008 grazing season. This year they anticipate a turn-out of May 15 and will have between 40-45% of cattle on the allotment. BLM is planning on working with each individual permittee on a case-by-case basis.

Jack had read the minutes from the Game and Fish meeting and wondered if anyone knew the outcome of the executive session regarding real property and legal issues. Nobody was privy to that information because those were executive session issues.

Jack wanted to set the date for the September meeting. After discussion it was decided the first week of October would work the best. The department will visit with James and coordinate both the State Fair Advisory Committee meeting and the Board of Agriculture meeting and respond back to the board.

Juan wondered about the status of construction at State Fair Park. John reported everything is about one to two months behind for a variety of reasons, but work is continuing. Some of was expected to be complete by August will probably not be ready.

John wanted to let everyone know the dates for the Governor's Natural Resource Tour will be September 9 and 10 and the next Joint Ag Committee meeting will be September 11 and 12. He encouraged members to attend both if they could and expects more information should be out soon.

The three main components of the tour in Torrington this July are the SAR's facility, Patrick's wine business and the ethanol plant. Jack will email Patrick regarding the tour and agenda items.

Jack would like to discuss the state statues at more length in July.

There being no additional business. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Corson, President

Date